

Congressman Meek is greatly concerned about the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico and its effects on industry and the environment.

Background

On April 20th 2010, an explosion occurred on the Deepwater Horizon rig, it subsequently caught fire and sank two days later. Most of the 126 people on rig were able to escape, but 11 workers are still missing. Initial estimates stated that the rig was leaking 1,000 gallons per day, but NOAA has increased that estimate to approximately 5,000 barrels per day.

Currently:

BP has taken full responsibility for the spill and is working as part of the Unified Command to stop the flow of oil on the sea floor, minimize impacts of the spill on the surface and the shoreline, and engage the public through information dissemination and volunteer efforts. The federal government has been fully engaged in the response since the incident occurred April 20. Approximately 3,000 people are currently responding to protect the shoreline and wildlife. Nearly 200 vessels are responding on site, including skimmers, tugs, barges, and recovery vessels to assist in containment and cleanup efforts—in addition to dozens of aircraft, remotely operated vehicles, and multiple mobile offshore drilling units. More than 156,000 gallons of dispersant have been deployed and hundreds of thousands of feet of boom (barrier) have been deployed to contain the spill. More than 1 million gallons of an oil-water mix have been recovered.

On Sunday, May 2nd, NOAA announced restrictions in fishing for a minimum of ten days in federal waters most affected by the BP oil spill, largely between Louisiana state waters at the mouth of the Mississippi River to waters off Florida's Pensacola Bay. The closure is effective immediately. This order balances economic and health concerns and only closes those areas affected by oil. Details can be found [here](#).

To learn more about the Deepwater Horizon incident you can visit the Joint Incident Command website at: www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com

BP is now accepting claims for the Gulf Coast oil spill. Please call BP's helpline at 1-800-440-0858. A BP fact sheet with additional information is available [here](#). Those who have already pursued the BP claims process and are not satisfied with BP's resolution can call the Coast Guard at 1-800-280-7118. More information about what types of damages are eligible for compensation under the Oil Pollution Act as well as guidance on procedures to seek that compensation can be found [here](#).

To submit your vessel as a vessel of opportunity skimming system call (281) 366-5511

To report oiled wildlife, please call 1-866-557-1401 and leave a message. Messages will be checked hourly.

To report [oil](#) spill related damage, please call 1-800-440-0858.

To report oiled shoreline or request volunteer information, please call 1-866-448-5816.

To submit alternative response technology, services or products please call (281) 366-5511